

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application and for the telephonic interview conducted with applicant's attorney on July 17, 2006.

During the interview proposed amendments to the claims were discussed. Specifically, it was proposed to identify the carry lines as unidirectional. The Examiner agreed that the specification, including the arrows on lines 94 and 95R,L, provide support for the amendments. The Examiner also agreed that the applied prior art did not disclose unidirectional carry lines. However, the Examiner also requested that the claims be amended to recite that the outward carry line as well as the return carry lines pass through the plurality of vacuum processing chambers. Those amendments have been made to claims 1 and 11, and should thus place those claims, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, in condition for allowance.

In addition, new claims 16 and 17 have been added. New claim 16 is similar to previously presented claim 1, except that it recites that the inversion position is at the end of the outward carry line. New claim 17 is similar to previously presented claim 11, except that it recites that the inversion position is at the end of the outward carry line. Note that *Miller* does not have an inversion point at the end of any of the tracks therein.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments, the application should now be in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is also respectfully requested to consider the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith.

The Examiner is also advised that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed in this application on June 11, 2003, and which may be found on the Patent

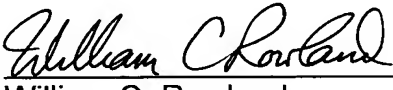
Office's Image File Wrapper system. The Examiner is respectfully requested to review the information submitted on June 11, 2003 and to make the references listed therein of record.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned so as to expedite prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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